

What is Muharram?

As told through the eyes of former student, Farzana Alizada

Muharram is when all the Shia (Muslims) from all around the world get together to share tears and mourn in the memory of Imam Hussain, as well as his defenders and his family, due to what happened to them in the battle of Karbala.

The event is celebrated every year by millions all around the world.

Muharram goes on for 40 days. This is because the only sister of Imam Hussain, Bibi Zainab, who was taken forcibly by the enemies into horrible dungeons. She went for 40 days without food or water, living only on hope and the faith of Allah in her heart. On the 40th day she passed away. This is also the reason why all Muslims across the world fast in remembrance of Imam, as well as the poor.

In the Battle of Karbala, Imam Hussain lost both his 18-year-old and six-month-old sons. His brother Abbas was killed in a very traumatic way with his both arms cut off and an arrow in his chest and eye. All the men were killed, and the women were taken from Karbala to the prison of Sham by bare foot.

Now, in the remembrance of Islam history, the head prayer which is known as the Sheikh, shares stories and poems about the days of Muharram and what had happened.

Ashura occurs on the 10th of Muharram to the 13th. On Ashura (10th), the 70 men (defenders) of Imam Hussain were killed by thousands of Shimer Ibn Thil-Jawshan's army. On the 13th, thousands of mourners from Bani Asad tribe and other tribes from the region of Karbala and the surrounding cities came out in the holy city of Karbala to honour the funerals of the holy bodies.

From a Muslim student perspective, this event is one of the most important times of Islamic history that all people should be aware of and have some knowledge about. During this time, there may be changes in most, if not all Muslim students around the school. For example, students may be wearing more black clothing to pay respects to the Imam and the sufferings they went through for our generations and for the sake of Islam to be alive and acknowledged.

On the 10th and 13th of Muharram many students may not be attending to school. The reason is that both the Arabic and Afghani community will gather at each other's mosques to light up some candles and share poems with each other. For example, on the 10th the Arabic community are welcomed to the Afghani Mosque, and on the 13th the Afghani's are welcomed into the Arabic Mosque.



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